

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2002

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VOTER TURNOUT EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

Bismarck, ND – Voter turnout in Tuesday's statewide election exceeded expectations according to Secretary of State Al Jaeger.

With one 100% of the state's 663 precincts reporting by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, unofficial tallies showed that just over 128,000 eligible voters turned out to vote in yesterday's statewide election. This translates into a voter turnout of just over 26.5%, surpassing Jaeger's prediction, marking an increase of 6% over two years ago.

Based upon reports from the state's county auditors in the days preceding the election, Jaeger anticipated better participation than in the two previous primary elections occurring in 1998 and 2000. Jaeger predicted a turnout of approximately 23% of the voting age population.

"I was pleasantly surprised that my prediction was low," said Jaeger. "Voter turnout can always be better. However, I am pleased yesterday's election sparked more interest than we expected."

Jaeger credits the improved turnout to greater interest in some key local races across the state and that the City of Fargo held its election in conjunction with Cass County.

Tuesday's election included partisan and non-partisan primary elections for federal, state, judicial, and legislative offices as well as, binding general elections for most cities and many school district offices. The voters in yesterday's election also decided one constitutional measure and a referred measure.

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